

STUDY REPORTS

1. Title: Rabies Diagnostic Service

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OBJECTIVE

The objective is to maintain a modern competent facility that will provide a rapid and accurate rabies diagnostic service to determine potential human exposure to rabiesvirus infections from animal bites.

DESCRIPTION

The Fluorescent Rabies Antibody (FRA) test, microscopic examination of Seller's stained impression smears, and intracranial inoculation of weanling mice are the methods used in this facility for the diagnosis of rabies in routine specimens. The indirect FRA test is used to evaluate the presence of antirabies antibody in human sera when requested.

PROGRESS

Result of examinations performed in response to routine diagnostic requests during this report period are shown in Table 1. There were 174 cases of rabies in dogs, 3 in humans and 1 case in a guinea pig. The guinea pig specimen with rabies was submitted by the Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and had been exposed to rabiesvirus as a vaccine potency test animal. Correlation between FRA test and mouse inoculation has remained acceptable. Two cases diagnosed tentatively negative by FRA were later shown to be positive by mouse inoculation. All cases diagnosed positive by FRA were confirmed by mouse inoculation. During this report period 112 human sera were examined by the indirect FRA test for the presence of antirabies antibody.

Table 1. Results of Specimens Submitted for Routine Rabies Diagnosis

<u>Species</u>	<u># Examined</u>	<u># Positive</u>	<u>% Positive</u>
Canine	302	174	58
Feline	35	0	0
Rodents	19	0	0
Nonhuman Primates	10	0	0
Human	3	3	100
Others	13	1 (Guinea Pig)	8
Total	<u>382</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>47</u>

SUMMARY

During this report period 382 suspect specimen were submitted to this laboratory for rabies diagnosis. One hundred and seventy eight or 47% were positive for rabies. All positive cases were in dogs except 3 human and 1 guinea pig.